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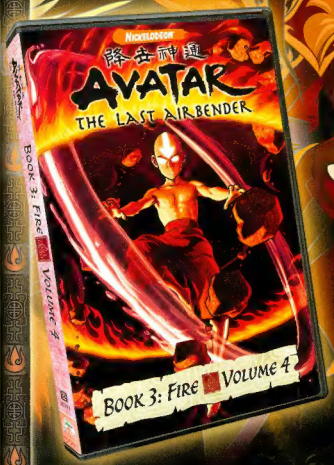

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RECALIBRATING TRAJECTORY.

BRAINIAC

PART 2

HIDE AND SEEK

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JON SIBAL-Inker • ROB LEIGH-Letterer • BRAD ANDERSON-Colorist
FRANK & ANDERSON-Cover
NACHIE CASTRO-Assoc. Editor • MATT IDELSON-Editor

ROCKETED TO EARTH FROM THE DOOMED PLANET KRYPTON, THE BABY KAL-EL WAS FOUND AND RAISED BY JONATHAN AND MARTHA KENT IN SMALLVILLE, KANSAS. NOW AN ADULT, CLARK KENT FIGHTS FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE & THE AMERICAN WAY AS...

SUPERMAN

SENT IN A ROCKET FROM KRYPTON AS A TEENAGER, KARA ZOR-EL WAS TRAPPED IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION FOR YEARS BEFORE SHE ARRIVED ON EARTH FOLLOWING HER COUSIN. KAL-EL NOW THE MOST POWERFUL GIRL ON OUR PLANET, KARA ZOR-EL FIGHTS FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE KRYPTONIAN WAY AS...

SUPERGIRL

SUPERMAN created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster

BRAINIAC IS AN ALIEN FROM THE PLANET COLU, KARA. HIS TELEPATHIC AND TELEKINETIC MIND IS A THOUSAND TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN OURS.
HE NEVER SHOWS UP THE SAME WAY TWICE.
AND THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF THIS METAL MATCHES ANOTHER BRAINIAC I TORE THROUGH.
THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM, HIS INTELLECT POSSESSED A WOULD-BE-PSYCHIC NAMED MILTON FINE.
THROUGH SCIENCE, HE CREATED OTHER BODIES TO CONTROL.
SOME WERE ORGANIC, SOME WERE ROBOTIC.
WELL, YEAH.
BUT THAT'S NOT HIM, KAL.
THAT'S LIKE ALL THE OTHERS. THAT'S ONE OF HIS PROBES.
ONE OF HIS PROBES?
LIKE THE NANITES THAT INFECTED THAT MAN'S BRAIN AND ALL THE ANDROIDS AND CLONES YOU'VE FACED. YOU'VE ONLY MET HIS PROGRAMMING.
YOU'VE NEVER REALLY MET BRAINIAC.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
BECAUSE NO ONE HAS.

I CAN BARELY GET YOU TO STUDY THE SUNSTONE CRYSTALS ON LEX LUTHOR AND MONGUL. BUT YOU KNOW ABOUT BRAINIAC?
I GREW UP ON KRYPTON, DIDN'T I?
EVERYONE WHO DID KNOWS ABOUT BRAINIAC.
HE'S WHAT KEPT US FROM GOING OUT AFTER DARK.
YOU'RE... SCARED?
IT WAS THE SCARIEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED ON KRYPTON. NEXT TO THE DAY IT DIED.
I'LL NEVER FORGET BRAINIAC.
IT HAPPENED MONTHS BEFORE I LEFT.
KANDOR'S LUNAR COLONY WAS DESTROYED BY JAX-UR. MOM SAID THAT'S WHAT GOT BRAINIAC'S ATTENTION.
TH-THAT'S WHEN HE INVADED KRYPTON!
FZZZZZZZ
THAT'S WHEN HE HURT ALL THOSE PEOPLE!

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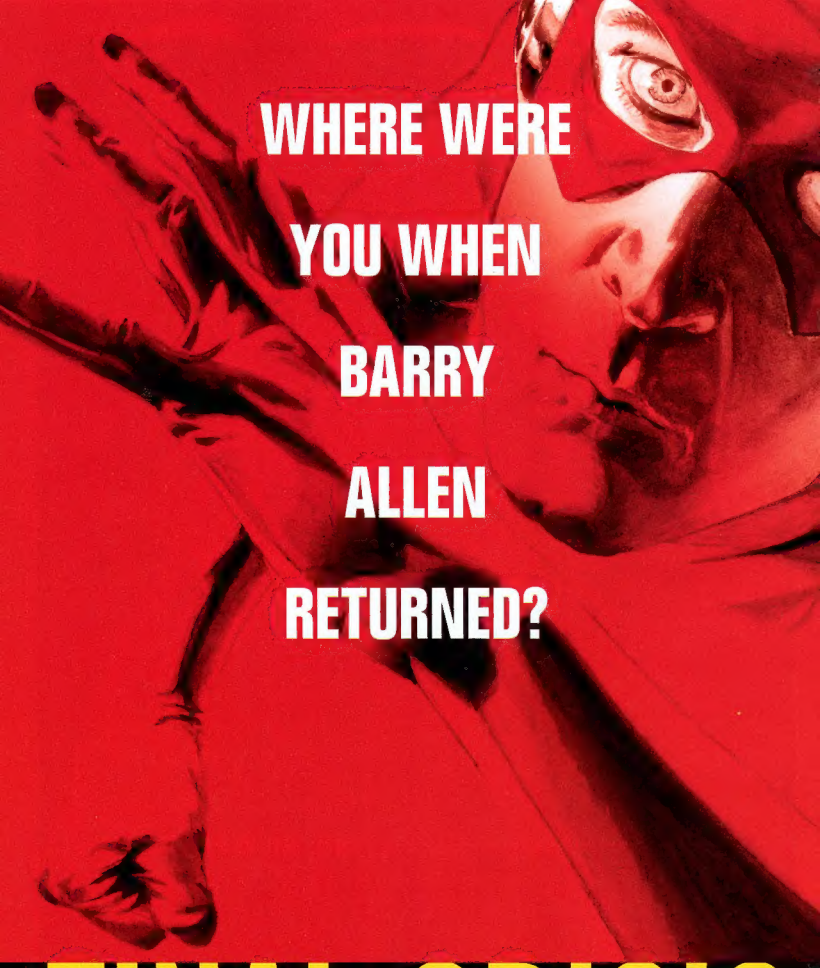
KARA! YOUR HEAT VISION--
HUNDREDS OF THESE ROBOTIC PROBES WENT INTO THE CITY OF KANDOR, KAL! THEY KILLED ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE. THEN SOME KIND OF FIELD GREW OVER THE CITY CENTER.
"FAMILIES WERE SEPARATED BY AN INVISIBLE WALL."
KANDOR VANISHED.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE ONE, TRUE KANDOR.
AND IT WAS LIKE THE HEART OF KRYPTON HAD BEEN RIPPED RIGHT OUT!
I HAD FRIENDS THERE, THARA AK-VAR. MY BEST FRIEND--
KARA, CALM DOWN!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'S NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.
NOT ANYMORE.

YOU'VE TOLD ME LEX LUTHOR IS EVERYTHING BAD ABOUT HUMANITY.
WELL, BRAINIAC IS EVERYTHING BAD ABOUT ALIENS.
CAN YOU IMAGINE IT, KAL? THOUSANDS MISSING IN MINUTES BECAUSE OF THAT HORRIBLE THING.
GENERAL ZOD SAID BRAINIAC DISINTEGRATED KANDOR.
SOME THOUGHT THAT. MY MOTHER THOUGHT THAT IT'D BEEN TAKEN. SHE THOUGHT BRAINIAC ABDUCTED THE WHOLE CITY.
FOR WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW.
MOM AND DAD SENT ME IN A ROCKET AFTER YOURS, BUT MINE GOT TRAPPED IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION.
SO INSTEAD OF ME LOOKING AFTER MY BABY COUSIN, YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AFTER ME.
SOMETIMES I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF KRYPTON.
MAYBE THEN I'D BE LIKE YOU...
...MAYBE THEN I WOULDN'T MISS IT SO MUCH.



FINAL CRISIS

YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

AUGUST 2008 CHECKLIST

FINAL CRISIS #1: DIRECTOR'S CUT
FINAL CRISIS: ROGUES' REVENGE #2
FINAL CRISIS: REVELATIONS #1
FINAL CRISIS: SUPERMAN BEYOND 3-D
FINAL CRISIS: LEGION OF THREE WORLDS #1

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SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT IN THE PAST, CLARK.
IF WHAT KARA'S SAYING IS TRUE, MA, AND I BELIEVE HER, THERE COULD BE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE OUT THERE.
OUR PEOPLE.
I DON'T LIKE THIS, JONATHAN.
I'M RIGHT HERE, MA.
WELL, I DON'T!
THESE THINGS... THESE ROBOTS. WHAT ARE THEY DOING COMING AFTER YOU? WHAT DO THEY WANT?
BRAINIAC'S TRYING TO FIND HIM.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SON?
HE'S SENT THESE PROBES OUT ACROSS THE UNIVERSE, BUT FOR SOME REASON HE'S BEEN UNABLE TO GET A LOCK ON ME.
THE SUNSTONE CRYSTALS IN THE FORTRESS HAVE REVERSE ENGINEERED THE PROBE'S GUIDANCE SYSTEM.
IT'S MY TURN TO TRY AND FIND BRAINIAC.

MA'S UPSET.
SHE JUST WORRIES ABOUT YOU, SON. WE BOTH DO.
I KNOW IT'S FACING AN UNKNOWN THREAT, SOMETHING DANGEROUS. THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T TOLD KARA I'M LEAVING, BUT IF YOU SAW THE LOOK ON HER FACE, PA.
SHE WAS SO FRIGHTENED. AND SHE FEELS SO ALONE.
YOU DON'T THINK I SHOULD GO EITHER, DO YOU?
I'M LONG PAST WORRYING ABOUT THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE.
YOUR GREATEST POWER ISN'T BEING ABLE TO FLY OR SEE THROUGH WALLS.
IT'S KNOWING WHAT THE RIGHT THING TO DO IS.
WHERE DO YOU THINK I LEARNED IT FROM?
A LOT OF PEOPLE.
I KNEW YOU WERE SPECIAL WHEN YOUR MOTHER AND I FOUND YOU--
--BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW SPECIAL.

YOU STRUCK OUT THE FIRST FEW SWINGS, YOU ALWAYS TOOK SOME TIME TO WARM UP, BUT WHEN YOU HIT THIS HERE--
"--YOU HIT IT CLEAR ACROSS SMALLVILLE."
I'D WAKE UP EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AND WALK THE FIELDS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN.
IT TOOK ME ALMOST SIX MONTHS TO FIND IT.
THAT'S CRAZY.
THAT'S WHAT BEN HUBBARD THOUGHT WHEN HE SAW ME HIKING BACK AND FORTH ACROSS HIS FARM. I TOLD HIM I WAS LOOKING FOR ARROWHEADS.
DO YOU REMEMBER THESE?
THE DAY I OUTRAN THE TRUCK. HOW LONG DID YOU CHASE AFTER ME?
MUST'VE BEEN 'BOUT TWENTY MILES.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU KEPT ALL OF THIS.
WELL, I COULDN'T KEEP YOU.
YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD, IN THE UNIVERSE, IS MUCH TOO IMPORTANT FOR THAT.
BUT EVEN A MAN LIKE ME NEEDS SOMETHING TO HANG ON TO.

YOU BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.
AND IF THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT NEED HELP, YOU DO WHAT YOU ALWAYS DO.
DON'T LET ANYONE OR ANYTHING GET IN YOUR WAY.
I WON'T.
FOR THE CHEST.
WORLD'S GREATEST DAD

I'D TELL YOU SUPERGIRL'S GOING TO TRY AND FOLLOW YOU, BUT I THINK SHE'LL HAVE HER HANDS FULL DEALING WITH CAT'S EDITORIAL.
I'M GOING TO TRY AND STOP IT, BUT THAT WOMAN REALLY HAS AN AXE TO GRIND. SHE DOESN'T LIKE SOMEONE HALF HER AGE FLYING THROUGH METROPOLIS AND TURNING HEADS.
...CLARK?
KARA MADE ME REALIZE I KNOW A LOT OF FACTS ABOUT KRYPTON, LOIS, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M MISSING.
AND I STILL DON'T REALLY KNOW HER.
I'M NOT SURE SHE KNOWS HERSELF.
SHE SPENDS ALL OF HER TIME IN THAT CAPE. SHE'S MISSING OUT ON SO MUCH--
--BECAUSE I THINK SHE'S AFRAID TO LOSE IT AGAIN.
KARA'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT OF TRAUMA.
I ONLY WANT HER TO BE HAPPY.
YOU WANT EVERYONE TO BE HAPPY.
IS THAT WRONG?
NO, CLARK.
IT'S JUST UNUSUAL.
HEY! HEADS UP, FARM BOY!
HERE WE GO..
WHAK!

KURT BUSIEK • MARK BAGLEY

TRINITY

COVERS BY ANDY KUBERT • JIM LEE • CARLOS PACHECO

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INCOMPLETE!
LIKE KENT.
I LIKE THE TIE.
UM, THANKS, STEVE.
MY DAD USED TO WEAR ONE LIKE THAT.
COME ON NOW, OLSEN!
UH, WHAT?
GO LONG!
NICE CATCH.
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'LL BE GONE.
JUST TRY TO BE BACK BEFORE SOMEBODY THROWS LOMBARD OFF THE ROOF.
HE'LL NEED YOU TO CATCH HIM.
AND YOU THINK I WOULD?
AFTER YOU LET HIM A FALL A BIT.
HOW ABOUT A LOT?
ONLY IF I CAN WATCH.

ACCESSING FILE A283.
GENERAL DRU-ZOD, LEADER OF THE KRYPTONIAN MILITARY, DEBRIEFING THE SCIENCE COUNCIL ON THE INVASION OF KANDOR.
...LOST OVER FORTY OF MY SOLDIERS TO THESE ANDROIDS WHEN THEY SPLIT THEIR HEADS OPEN. ANOTHER SIX HUNDRED WERE TRAPPED BEHIND THE FIELD THAT SURROUNDED KANDOR.
I AM NOT SUGGESTING WE RE-APPROACH INTERSTELLAR MILITARY OPERATIONS, I'M DEMANDING IT. WE MUST CONQUER SPACE TRAVEL AND FIND THIS COLUAN.
THIS ALIEN INVADER MUST DIE FOR WHAT HE'S DONE!
ACCESSING FILE AB45. NON, REKNOWNED KRYPTONIAN SCIENTIST AND ADVISOR TO THE SCIENCE COUNCIL, ON THE MOTIVATIONS OF BRAINIAC.

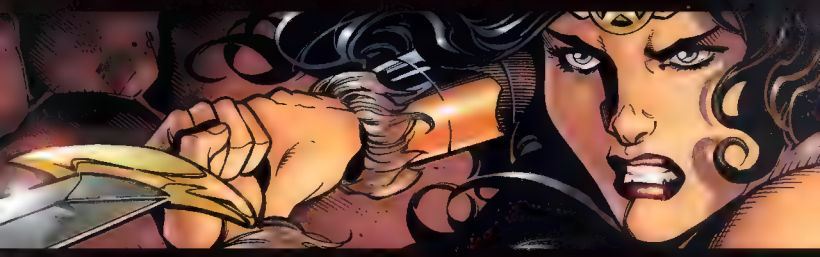
...EXACT WANTS AND NEEDS OF THIS EXTRATERRESTRIAL THREAT REMAIN *UNKNOWN*, THOUGH HIS ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN TWOFOLD.
AS YOU KNOW, MY PROTÉGÉ JOR-EL HAS RECENTLY UNCOVERED ACTIVITY WITHIN--
ENOUGH, NON. YOU KNOW WE WILL NOT *DISCUSS* JOR-EL'S "DOOMSDAY RANTS."
BUT, COUNCIL-MEMBER--
WE HAVE BEEN *CLEAR*, NON. THIS INTERVIEW IS *OVER*.
WAIT...WHAT WAS NON TALKING ABOUT?
CONTINUE FILE.
UNABLE. FILE HAS ENDED.
VEET VEET VEET
MY GOD.

KRANK

FOUND YOU.
KRRZZT
ARGH
KIK KOK KIK

GAIL SIMONE
AARON LOPRESTI

WONDER WOMAN



WHOM THE GODS FORSAKE

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KAAA

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COULD
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IN HEAVEN.
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HELL
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KEITH GIFFEN
ART BY
TOM DERENICK
BILL SIENKIEWICZ
AN 8-ISSUE
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BRAINIAC.
KAANGGG

KIK
KIK
NO.
GHOOM
GHOOM
HOW--?

VEEEEEET

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JUNE 2008

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KRYPTONIAN...
FOUND.
NEXT: SUPERMAN MEETS BRAINIAC

Hi, everybody! Senior Story Editor **Ian Sattler** here. One of the best things about my job at DC is that I get to hear the lowdown on all of our upcoming events and stories. Usually this is stuff I have to keep top secret, but every once in a while there is something that's just too good to keep quite about! In this case we have not one, not two, but three JSA: Kingdom Come specials coming out toward the end of the year. I figured we should let the DC Nation in on the excitement, so I asked JSA Editor **Mike Siglain** if he could give us a few hints. Take a look:

Q: How did the idea for these JSA: Kingdom Come specials come about?

MS: **Geoff Johns** and **Alex Ross** were overflowing with unbelievable concepts for the current JSA arc. Some of those ideas took on a life of their own, and these specials seemed like the natural thing to do.

Q: Let's go into the specifics starting with JSA Kingdom Come Special: The Kingdom written by Geoff Johns and featuring art by JSA's **Fernando Pasarin**. What can you tell us?

MS: For those of you following the story, you know that the being known as Gog has been walking across the Earth, granting wishes and righting wrongs. Well, what happens when he grants the wishes of the JSA? We see a little bit of that in JSA 17, but The Kingdom special takes it one step further. What becomes of the JSAers who have been given their heart's desire? What does it do to the team? As we'll learn, it's very much a case of "be careful what you wish for."

Q: Up next would be JSA: Kingdom Come Special: Superman, which was plotted by Geoff and Alex Ross. I guess it's safe to say that the Kingdom Come Superman will be featured here?

MS: No, this is a story about Kingdom Come Deadman 'cause there's something spooky about an acrobatic skeleton. Kidding. Sure, this is about Kingdom Come Superman. Of all the Specials, this one has the most direct connection to Kingdom Come, and will not only expand upon a few important ideas and scenes from that masterpiece, but it's probably the most serious and dramatic of all the Specials. And wait until you see the pages Alex is working on! I've seen KC Superman duking it out with...well, I'll leave that be. For now.

Q: And finally we've got JSA: Kingdom Come Special: Magog as plotted by Geoff, Alex and Peter Tomasi. What's going on in this book?

MS: The Magog from Kingdom Come is best known for killing the Joker. But when someone from our Earth becomes Magog, the question is, how will they evolve? Is this Magog a violent anti-hero, an all-out villain, or, like Gog, a savior? We all know the saying "Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely." Well, that's what we'll find out in the Magog Special,and there's no one better suited to write that than Black Adam writer Peter Tomasi.

So there you have it! Be on the lookout for more JSA, including the JSA Annual this month! See you soon!

DC NATION

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at dccomics.com

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ACTION COMICS #868

For the first time, Superman encounters Brainiac! Guest-starring some of the most fantastic beings in the DCU.

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